42. An African Rhinoceros, Klipspringer, and Gazelle *.

By R. Lydekker †.

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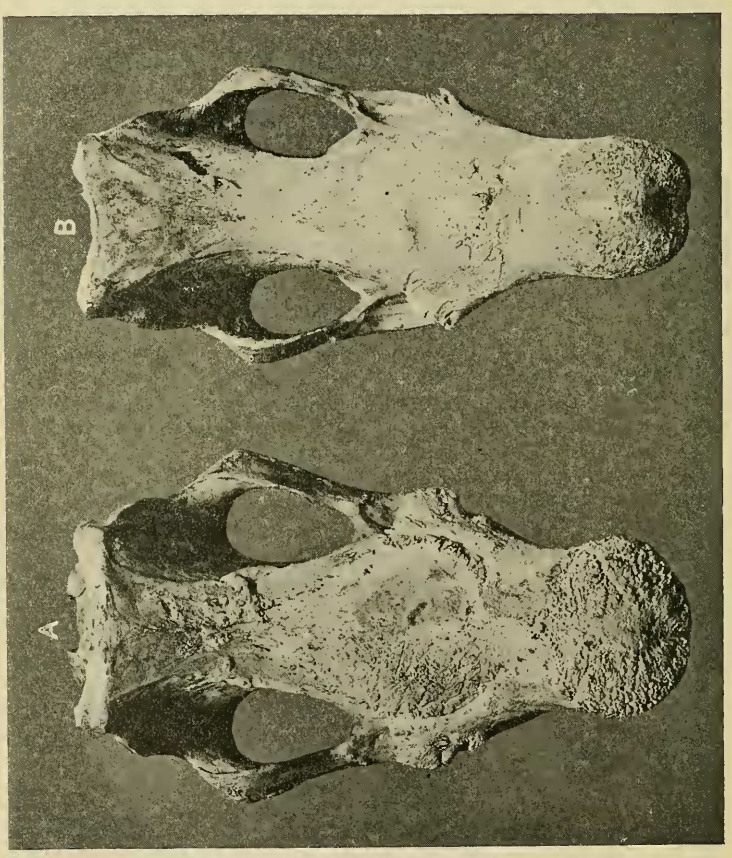
(Text-figures 191–193.)

I. The Somali Rhinoceros.

The presentation to the British Museum by Mr. Drake-Brockman of two skulls of the Somali Rhinoceros, affords an opportunity of considering whether that animal is entitled to rank as a distinct local race of the so-called black species. Sportsmen, I am told, almost invariably regard it in that light;

Text-fig. 191.



Upper aspect of skulls of East African (A) and Somali (B) Rhinoceroses.

* The complete account of the two new forms described in this paper appears here, but as the names and preliminary diagnoses were published in the 'Abstract,' the species are distinguished by the names being underlined.—Editor.

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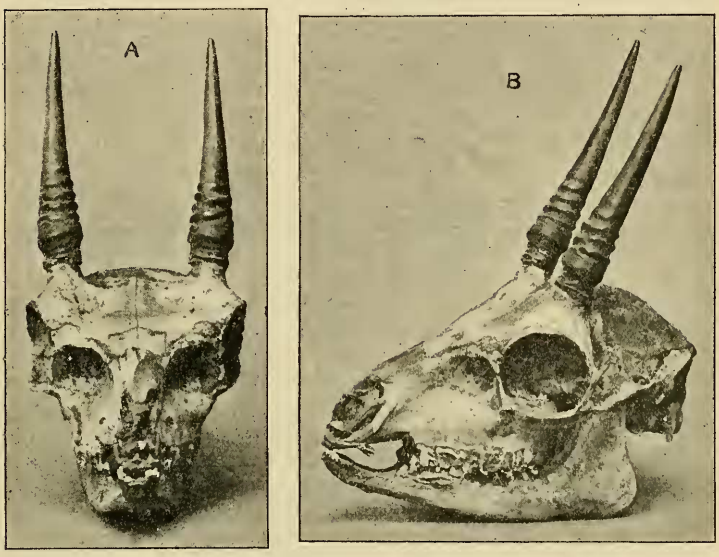
and Mr. Ward informs me that such heads as he has mounted indicate a relatively small animal, with horns inferior in size to those of the Eastern and the Southern Rhinoceroses, and a skin with a somewhat different epidermal structure.

According to modern views in regard to nomenclature, the Somali Rhinoceros already has a scientific name, since it is referred to by Count Joseph Potocki on page 82 of his work entitled 'Sport in Somaliland,' London, 1900, as *Rhinoceros bicornis somaliensis*; and although no description was published at the time, the accompanying plates apparently render the name valid.

Text-fig. 192.



Front (A) and side (B) views of skull of Nigerian Klipspringer.

Of the two skulls presented by Mr. Drake-Brockman, one is that of a subadult animal, with the whole of the permanent dentition in use, and almost perfect, although the tip of the premaxillæ is broken off. The other, which is considerably more imperfect, is that of a younger animal, with the upper premolars only just coming into wear.

Compared with a skull of *Rhinoceros bicornis* from East Africa (B.M. No. 7.2.26.1)* (text-fig. 191), of somewhat greater age than either of the Somali specimens, the latter are seen at once to differ by the narrower form of the whole upper surface, both at the interparietal constriction and at the orbital expansion. The boss for the front horn is also much less expanded in the Somali skulls, and there is less convexity in the region immediately behind

* I am fully aware that this is not the type locality of the species.

this. Moreover, the palate is more decidedly vaulted in the Somali than in the East African skull. So far as I can ascertain, these differences appear to be constant in all the skulls available for comparison.

The differences in the proportions of the Somali and East African skulls will be apparent from the following table :—

	E. African.	Somali.
Length of upper aspect	$22\frac{1}{4}$ ins.	23 ins.
Breadth at orbits	11	$9\frac{1}{2}$
Palatal length	$21\frac{1}{2}$	$20\frac{3}{4}$
Zygomatic width	$14\frac{1}{4}$	$11\frac{3}{4}$
Length of upper tooth-row (excluding p. 1)...	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{4}$
Width of m. 2	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$

As these dimensions amply demonstrate the racial distinctness of the two forms, the Somali animal may stand as *R. bicornis somaliensis* Potocki; the specimen here described occupying the position of type. It may be added that if the East African and Somali skulls were of the same age, the difference in the lengths of the upper tooth-row would be greater.

II. The Nigerian Klipspringer (*Oreotragus saltator porteusi*).

Lydekker, Abstract P. Z. S. 1911, p. 38 (June 20).

Early in May, as I have already stated in the *Field* newspaper for that month, Mr. Rowland Ward directed my attention to the skull and horns of a male Klipspringer from the Duchi 'n Wai range of the Yola province of Northern Nigeria, lying to the south-west of Lake Chad. The skull was taken from an animal shot there by Dr. E. J. Porteus, by whom it was kindly placed at my disposal. Klipspringers, it appears, are quite familiar to the natives working in the Yola tin-mines, by whom they are known as *gaddi-dueki*, a term equivalent to Hill Duiker.

The skull (text-fig. 192) differs from that of an East African Klipspringer by its much greater width; its diameter across the orbits being $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, whereas that of the East African specimen is $2\frac{5}{16}$ inches. It is further distinguished by the marked bending down of the margin of the lachrymal bone, which consequently has a distinct lateral surface in place of a sharp edge, and also shows only a comparatively small part of its total area from the frontal aspect.

Klipspringers, so far as I am aware, appear to be unknown on the West Coast north of Angola*; while to the north, Abyssinia is the nearest point to Yola where they are found. As the country between the last two districts is to a great extent low desert, the Yola Klipspringer must be quite isolated.

On this ground, and also on account of the peculiarities in the form of the skull, it is clearly entitled to racial distinction, and I propose to name it *Oreotragus saltator porteusi*, in honour of Dr. Porteus.

* For the information that Klipspringers inhabit Angola, I am indebted to Mr. E. A. Hamilton.

The type of the new race of Klipspringer will be the aforesaid skull, which Dr. Porteus has kindly presented to the British Museum.

I know of no Antelope with a distribution identical with that of the Klipspringer, as now extended.

About a fortnight after describing this skull I received a letter, dated Naragata, Northern Nigeria, from Mr. M. P. Hyatt, informing me that he had recently killed three Klipspringers—an adult buck and two does—in that part of the country.

III. An Algerian Gazelle (*Gazella hayi*).

Lydekker, Abstract P. Z. S. 1911, p. 38 (June 20).

At the close of 1909, Mr. M. V. Hay presented to the British Museum the skin and skull of an adult male Gazelle, shot by himself in Algeria between Constantine and Biskra, and supposed to be a Dorcas (*Gazella dorcas*). In due course the specimen was set up, and placed on exhibition as a representative of that species. Recently, however, as already mentioned in the *Field* newspaper *, it was pointed out to me by the donor that the specimen differed considerably from the Dorcas, and I was informed at the same time that its distinctness is recognised by the Arabs, who call it *rhozal-rim* ; *rhozal* being the name of the dorcas, and *rim* that of Loder's Gazelle (*G. leptoceros*). On comparison of the specimen with an undoubted Dorcas from the Biskra district, the difference between the two became apparent (text-fig. 193).

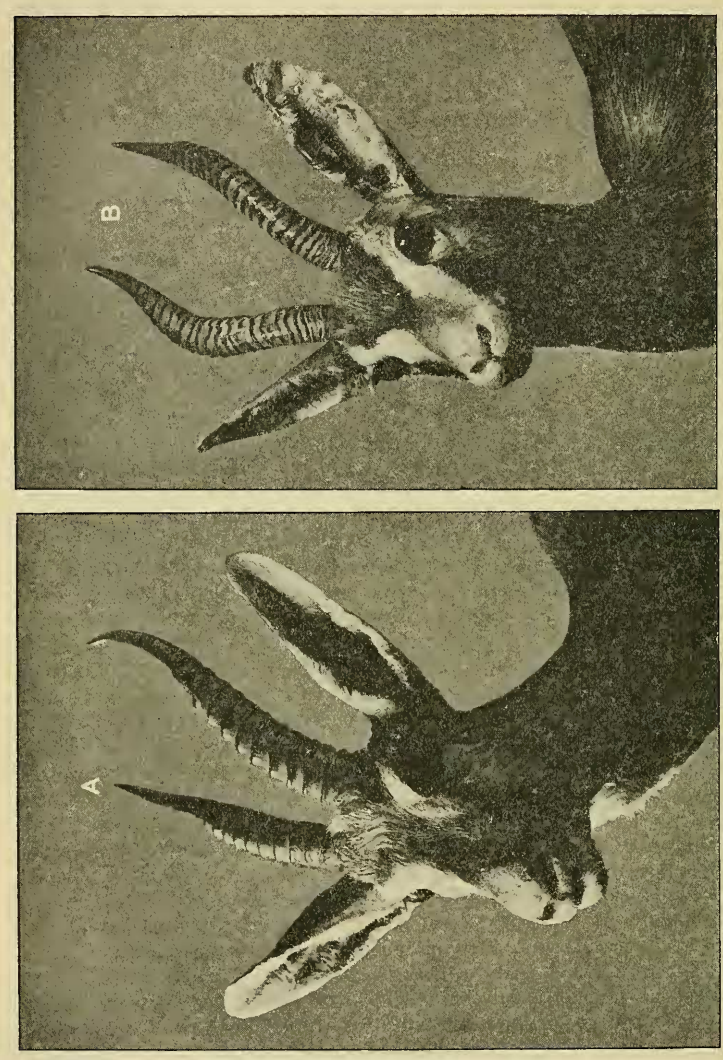
Mr. Hay's specimen is about the same size as a Dorcas, but appears to have rather larger ears,—I say appears to have, because one is never certain whether there may not have been stretching or shrinking in the mounting. Its most distinctive characteristic is, however, to be found in the form of the horns, which completely lack the double, sublyrate curvature of those of the Dorcas, and incline almost directly upwards and slightly inwards, with a slight inward and forward turn at the tips. There are also much fewer rings on the horns, the present specimen having only 12, whereas a Dorcas may have 24 or 25 ; possibly a more aged example of the new form might develop two or three more rings, but even then the difference would be very considerable.

The face-markings differ considerably from those of a Dorcas, and are more like those of an Edmi (*G. cuvieri*), the middle stripe being much darker, with a conspicuous nose-spot, and the light eye-stripes much less apparent, while the forehead lacks the chestnut tint of the Dorcas. The body does not show the faint light stripe above the flank-band which occurs in the Dorcas ; the knee-tufts are larger and blacker ; and the tail is brown instead of black, with a shorter fawn area at the base.

As the skull of Mr. Hay's specimen is mounted in the skin, I cannot give cranial characters; but the foregoing features are amply sufficient to distinguish the new Gazelle from the Dorcas,

* June 3rd, 1911.

which is found much more abundantly in the district frequented by the former. This being so, there is no doubt as to the distinctness of the new species, which I have named *Gazella hayi*,



Text-fig. 193.

Heads of *Gazella hayi* (A) and *G. dorcas* (B); both from the Constantine–Biskra district.

from all other Algerian Gazelles, unless it be *G. kavella* and the so-called *Antilope corrina*, neither of which can now be identified. The type of the new species will, of course, be the Museum specimen.